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If Miss Bancroft had made her study of the uses of games in the terms of more modern psychology the suggestiveness of her carefully prepared introduction would be greatly enhanced. She touches the modern thought in her remarks on "games for various ages and conditions." There is little to be said about the few "singing games" in the book. The dramatic game has a very different function from the game of skill and the two forms should not be confused. The historical study of the place of the two forms in the life of the past will show us how to distinguish between their use in the school life of the present.

CAROLINE CRAWFORD

TEACHERS COLLEGE

Selections from the Economic History of the United States (1765-1860).

By GUY STEVENS CALLENDER. Boston: Ginn & Co., 1909. Pp. xviii+819. \$2.75.

This book is intended for college and university classes in economic history, but it will prove useful in the libraries of secondary schools. Many of the selections will be helpful to students pursuing the ordinary courses in American history in the preparation of papers or reports on assigned topics.

According to the editor's view, "the economic history of a country ought to embrace three fairly distinct matters: first, it should describe and explain the economic life of a people at all stages of their development; second, it should investigate the relation of economic life to politics; third, it should attempt to show the influence of economic life upon the social evolution of the country" (Preface, p. iv). It is in accordance with this conception of his task that the editor has been guided in "his selection of topics and arrangement of materials."

Without holding to the socialistic doctrine known as the economic interpretation of history, he has nevertheless and naturally stressed the influence of economic conditions on the course of politics. As an example, take the following passage from an introduction to one of the chapters: "There has always been a disposition to hold the old confederation responsible for the economic difficulties of the time, and to give to the new government which followed it credit for the prosperity which came with its establishment. There is very good reason, however, for thinking that the causal relation between economic and political conditions is really the reverse of this. Economic conditions over which government had little or no control, wrecked the old confederation; while a prosperity, slowly prepared by influences that were for the most part independent of politics, smoothed the way for the establishment of the new government and insured its extraordinary success. . . . Commercial considerations were no doubt the chief influence leading to the constitutional convention" (pp. 180-81). In a similar spirit he also writes: "Hard times have always produced some kind of political activity in this country. In later times it has consisted in nothing more serious than putting one political party out of power or an attempt to do so; but in our earlier history it had more serious consequences. Nullification in South Carolina and the similar movement in New England, which resulted in the Hartford Convention, were very largely the result of economic depression. In a similar way the two most important events in our political history, the separation

from Great Britain and the formation of the present constitution, were profoundly influenced by the same cause and cannot be explained without taking it into consideration" (p. 125, n.).

In the preface the editor describes his book as "an account of economic affairs by persons who, for various reasons, were in a position to understand them. Travelers and other contemporary observers, statesmen and publicists who took part in the discussion of economic questions, a few economists who have been interested in American history, and still fewer historians who have given attention to economics, are the sources from which most of the extracts are taken." Thus among the authors from whose writings selections are made are the travelers Kalm, Martineau, and Olmsted, the statesmen Franklin, Hamilton, and Madison, the economists Adam Smith, Cairnes, and Sumner.

It is to be regretted that the type used for the editor's introductions to the several chapters is smaller than that employed for the body of the text, since, in proportion to space occupied, these brief essays are the most valuable portions of the book. There is no other book of selections from the economic history of the United States comparable to this one edited by Professor Callender. He has in its preparation rendered a valuable service to students of economic and of American history. It is to be hoped that he may yet compile a second volume, as was at first announced, bringing the work down to the end of the nineteenth century.

EDGAR H. JOHNSON

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Exercises in Geometry. By GRACE L. EDGETT. Boston: D. C. Heath & Co., 1909. Pp. vi+81.

This collection of exercises is subdivided into groups in such an order that it is in the nature of an appendix to the *Harvard Syllabus of Propositions in Geometry*. Of the eight hundred exercises about one-third are numerical. There are a very few applied problems, and no algebraic or graphical exercises.

First Course in Algebra. By HERBERT E. HAWKES, WILLIAM A. LUBY, AND FRANK C. TOUTON. Boston: Ginn & Co., 1910. Pp. vii+334. \$1.00.

Teachers who are giving some attention to the discussions of the methods of improving the teaching of mathematics, but wish to advance slowly and safely will be interested in this book. The omission of complicated forms and the clear and direct presentation of the fundamental principles of algebra make it a teachable book, suited to the needs and abilities of boys and girls of fourteen.

Constant use is made of the pupil's knowledge of arithmetic in the explanation of the various algebraic processes; and connection is made with geometry by means of exercises which involve facts of geometry. A large number of problems based on physical ideas and physical formulas give a fairly good connection with physics. There are a few portraits of famous mathematicians, and some good historical notes on the development of algebra. Little use is made of squared paper except to represent equations.